AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a magnetic resonance imaging apparatus; and

a patient table,

wherein the magnetic resonance apparatus has a magnet structure defining a cavity for accommodating a part of a body under examination, which magnetic structure is supported by a magnetic structure base block,

the patient table having a supporting structure that is slidable in at least one direction, wherein the patient table and the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus have a curved connection therebetween that allows relative rotation between the patient table and the magnet structure when connected to each other,

the curved connection includes a guide for relative displacement between the patient table and the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus,

wherein the base block of the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus is disposed on a platform interposed between the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus and **[[**the**]]** a floor, which platform has a base plate and an upper magnetic resonance imaging apparatus supporting plate, which upper ~~support~~ supporting plate lies over the base plate, rotary and sliding guide means for rotating and sliding the platform being interposed between said two plates such that the platform is rotatable along an annular path coaxial to an axis of the guide forming the curved connection

between the patient table and the magnetic imaging apparatus and the upper support plate is slidable relative to the base plate, and

wherein the patient table supporting structure has wheels or rollers for sliding the patient table relative to the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus.

2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, comprising two or more patient tables that can be simultaneously coupled to the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus and moved in different positions relative thereto.

3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the guide further includes a plurality of guide means for displacement of each of the two or more tables relative to each other and to the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 3, wherein the guide means comprises an arched guide and each table being connected to a carriage that can be coupled to said removable connection, wherein the tables have a supporting structure with wheels or rollers sliding.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the patient table supporting structure is also disposed on the platform interposed between the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus and the floor.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the rotary and sliding guide means interposed between the base plate and the upper plate of the platform is oriented along at least one straight axis.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the guide of the curved connection includes a table sliding guide that has the shape of a sector of a circle, whose axis is oriented perpendicular to the floor or to the apparatus supporting surface.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the rotary and sliding guide means between the base plate and the upper supporting plate of the platform for the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus also has the shape of a sector of a circle and is coaxial to the table sliding guide.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the platform has an annular shape, opposite sides of the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus having slidable support elements which rest directly on the platform, and the table supporting structure lies directly on the platform, which table supporting structure has elements for sliding on the floor.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the platform also partly extends beneath the table, coincident with at least the portion of the table supporting structure at the side whereat the table is coupled to the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus sliding guide.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein the portion of the platform which supports at least partly the table extends flush with the upper supporting surface of the portion of the sliding platform which supports the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the portion of the platform which supports the table is stationary and the table supporting structure has means for sliding or rolling on said portion of the platform.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the portion of the platform which supports the table has an upper table supporting plate which is slidable along a base plate, whose extension is shaped like a sector of a circle coaxial to the sector shaped sliding guide between the upper support plate and the base part of the platform portion supporting the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus.

15. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the platform has a magnetic resonance imaging apparatus supporting extension which is designed to also support said apparatus on the side(s) thereof that are not fitted with the table sliding guide.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein at least one side of the cavity forms an extension of the patient supporting surface of the patient table.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 16, wherein the sector-shaped sliding guides for the table and/or the upper support plate of the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus supporting platform and/or the upper support plate of the extension of said platform, for supporting at least a portion of the table are coaxial to each other, their axis being perpendicular to and intersecting said at least one side of the magnet structure that forms the extension of the patient supporting surface of the table.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the cavity is open on two parallel sides.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the magnet structure has three open sides, the three open sides include two opposite parallel sides and one side transverse thereto, and the magnet structure substantially has a C or U shape.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 16, wherein the sector-shaped guide for the table and/or the upper support plate of the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus supporting platform and/or the upper support plate of the extension of said platform, for supporting at least a portion of the table extends through an angle of 360°.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 16, wherein the sector-shaped guide for the table and/or the upper support plate of the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus supporting platform and/or the upper support plate of the extension of said platform, for supporting at least a portion of the table extends through an angle of less than 360°.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 16, wherein the sector-shaped guide for the table and/or the upper support plate of the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus supporting platform and/or the upper support plate of the extension of said platform, for supporting at least a portion of the table extends through an angle of less than 180°.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the platform for supporting the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus and at least a portion of the table is composed of elements having the shape of coaxial annular sectors.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein sides of the magnet structure that form an extension of the table have an outer edge that is arched coaxial to the curved connection, which edge extends along said guide and is superimposed thereto, level with the table surface.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the guide for relative slidable displacement of at least one of the patient tables and the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus is fitted onto an intermediate table part that may be

removably coupled to the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus and has a complementary cavity for accommodating the magnet structure sides which form the extension of the tables, said intermediate part of the tables being common to the two or more tables that may be simultaneously coupled to the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus.

26. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein said intermediate part of the table is coupled to the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus, by means of sliding guides, along which the sliding motion occurs along at least one coupling and uncoupling direction, means being provided for locking said intermediate part of the table in the coupling limit stop position and/or in one or more different intermediate positions marking different distances of the intermediate part of the table from the magnet structure of the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus.

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the table is coupled to the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus at one end side and extends radially with respect to the sector-shaped sliding guide.

28. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

a magnetic resonance imaging apparatus; and

two patient tables that are coupled to said apparatus,

a guide for relative slidable displacement of said patient tables and said apparatus, which guide consists of least two diametrically opposite, separate curved

sections mounted on opposite sides of the apparatus, which sections extend through an angle of less than 180°,

wherein the two separate guide sections are coaxial to each other and the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus may rotate coaxially to said separate guide sections.

Claim 29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28, wherein the two guide sections are diametrically opposite portions of a single continuous sector-shaped guide.

Claim 31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28, wherein the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus and/or the tables have wheels or means allowing them to slide or roll on the floor surface and/or on a platform.

33. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the two tables have means for locking them in the angular positions in which they are coupled to the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus.

34. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

a magnetic resonance imaging apparatus; and

at least one patient table or two tables that are coupled to said apparatus, on diametrically opposite sides of a guide for relative slidable displacement of said patient table or tables and said apparatus, which guide has the shape of a sector of a circle, and

at least one platform that rotates with an axis of rotation coaxial to an axis of the sector-shaped guide for the at least one of the tables, the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus being positioned on said platform, whereas the table or tables have means allowing them to slide or roll directly on the floor.

35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 34, wherein the platform has a circular shape, further comprising an additional annular platform being provided adjacent and coincident with an area supporting at least a portion of the table supporting structure, which additional platform supports at least a portion of the table supporting structure.

36. (Original) The system of claim 35, wherein the annular platform which supports at least a portion of the table structure is also rotatable and coaxial to the platform for supporting the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus and to the axis of the table sliding guide.

37. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 36, wherein the table supporting structure rests on the rotating additional annular platform in a non slidable manner at one end side, and on the floor or a stationary platform, with the interposition of sliding or rolling means, at the other end side.

Claim 38. (Cancelled)